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Tender

National Air Ambulance Service for The Scottish Ambulance Service

Scottish Ambulance Service

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-019611

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-035343

Published 19 July 2022, 8:40am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Scottish Ambulance Service

National Headquarters, Gyle Square, South Gyle Crescent

Edinburgh

EH12 9EB

Email

danielle.welsh@nhs.scot

Telephone

+44 01313140090

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM - Scotland

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.scottishambulance.com>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00393

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_MainPage.aspx

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_MainPage.aspx

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

National Air Ambulance Service for The Scottish Ambulance Service

Reference number

SAS/2022/639

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60443000 - Air-rescue services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The procurement of a national air ambulance service for the Scottish Ambulance Service.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 34710000 - Helicopters, aeroplanes, spacecraft and other powered aircraft
- 35112000 - Rescue and emergency equipment
- 35612500 - Search and rescue helicopters
- 35613000 - Unmanned aerial vehicles
- 60424120 - Hire of helicopters with crew
- 60440000 - Aerial and related services
- 34711110 - Fixed-wing aircrafts
- 60424110 - Hire of fixed-wing aircraft with crew
- 34711300 - Piloted aircraft
- 34711400 - Special-purpose aircraft
- 34700000 - Aircraft and spacecraft

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM - Scotland

Main site or place of performance

Scotland - National Service

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Scottish Ambulance Service ("the Service") provides a national air ambulance service to all of Scotland and its islands. This is the only wholly publicly funded air ambulance service in the United Kingdom and provides an invaluable resource to the public of Scotland.

Scotland presents a challenging environment for air ambulance operators. Factors to be considered include:

- Varied terrain.
- Potentially severe weather conditions.
- Longer hours of darkness in winter.
- Limited and varying airport capabilities and hours of operation.
- Future island transport provisions including ferries and airport developments or changes.
- Recognition of the Government targets on sustainability and carbon neutral.
- National planning of specialist services for example thrombectomy and major trauma.

The aims of the procurement are to deliver an innovative, sustainable, resilient and value for money air ambulance service that can respond to changes in service delivery requirements whilst maintaining a high quality care and experience for the patients and public of Scotland.

The future contract is expected to encompass the following elements including but not limited to:

1. The aircraft fleet must be capable of reaching all of Scotland's population. The rotary aircraft must have 24/7 Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) capability and all aircraft must act as a suitable transport platform for the personnel and equipment associated with our adult, paediatric and neonatal critical care transport and retrieval teams (ScotSTAR).

2. Provision of aircraft hangarage in order to ensure 24/7 availability of aircraft during inclement weather.
3. Provision of maintenance & backup. All planned and reactive maintenance must be carried out in Scotland. Backup aircraft to be provided to the same specification as core aircraft.
4. Provision of 24/7 engineering support.
5. Provision of adequate base facilities for clinical staff. e.g., provision of Ops Room space, lockers and parking facilities etc., In addition, meeting room/training room and overnight accommodation (where necessary) for on-call clinical staff.
6. Provision of air crew member training (e.g., Technical Crew Member training for HEMS).
7. Provision of compliant radio communications system. The aircraft must be capable of compliance with the current Airwave communications system (if this is still in operation at contract commencement), and also compliance with the future Emergency Services Network (ESN) system
8. Provision of on-going monitoring of service provision by way of regular contract monitoring meetings.
9. The Service will provide the clinical staffing. The aircraft, flight crew (pilots), estate & facilities and engineering support will be provided by the successful contractor(s) on a managed service basis.
10. The successful contractor(s) shall support a variety of air ambulance missions; ranging from hospital discharges through to pre-hospital helicopter emergency calls and critical care transfers.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality Ratio / Weighting: 70%

Cost criterion - Name: Cost Ratio / Weighting: 30%

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

optional three year extension (7+3)

II.2.9) Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Maximum number: 6

Objective criteria for choosing the limited number of candidates:

It is intended that the top 6 scoring Economic Operators will be invited to take part in the competitive dialogue. These Economic Operators shall be those that have:

1. Submitted a compliant SPD submission
2. Satisfied all the mandatory and discretionary exclusion grounds

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers

List and brief description of conditions

In order to be able to provide the Services, the bidder(s) must have, or must obtain an Air Operator's Certificate (AOC) which is issued and regulated by the UK CAA prior to the award of the contract. In the case of a "foreign" entity, that entity must be acceptable to the UK CAA. The issue of an AOC is based on the holder's Operations Manual which contains details of all of the operating criteria necessary to undertake safe commercial flying operations and part of the AOC documentation will be an Operations Specification (Ops Spec) which includes details of approved aircraft types and the approved operations. In the case of Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) a Specific Approval to do this will be Included with the AOC documentation as well as other relevant permissions. Bidder(s) must provide AOC documentation showing approval for all HEMS/Air Ambulance operations.

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Competitive dialogue

IV.1.4) Information about reduction of the number of solutions or tenders during negotiation or dialogue

Recourse to staged procedure to gradually reduce the number of solutions to be discussed or tenders to be negotiated

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2022/S 001-689048](#)

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

17 August 2022

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.3) Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

26 September 2022

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: Yes

Estimated timing for further notices to be published: Contract is for 7 years with a possible 3 years extension.

VI.2) Information about electronic workflows

Electronic invoicing will be accepted

Electronic payment will be used

VI.3) Additional information

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=700400.

The buyer has indicated that it will accept electronic responses to this notice via the Postbox facility. A user guide is available at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/sitehelp/help_guides.aspx.

Suppliers are advised to allow adequate time for uploading documents and to dispatch the electronic response well in advance of the closing time to avoid any last minute problems.

The Contracting Authority does not intend to include a sub-contract clause as part of community benefits (as per Section 25 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014) in this contract for the following reason:

Authority will explore other forms of community benefits and will not mandate subcontracting

Per the regs, the authority will explore CB's via "which is otherwise intended to improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the authority's area in a way additional to the main purpose of the contract in which the requirement is included."

Community benefits are included in this requirement. For more information see:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/public-sector-procurement/community-benefits-in-procurement/>

A summary of the expected community benefits has been provided as follows:

The specific nature of the community benefits included in this requirement will be detailed in the stage 2 - Invitation to Take Part in Dialogue Document

(SC Ref:700400)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Edinburgh Sheriff Court

Edinburgh

Country

United Kingdom